

THE LITERARY MIRROR.

VOL. 1.]

SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 21, 1808.

[NO. 14.]

Sweet flowers and fruits from fair Parnassus' mount,
And varied knowledge from rich Science' fount,
We hither bring.

[SELECTED.]

Considerations ON THE NATURE OF MAN.

NEAR 6000 years are elapsed since the creation. At first there were only two human beings. When the flood came upon the earth, which was 1656 years from the beginning of time, these two had increased, according to a moderate computation, to the number of 10,737,418,240 persons. From Noah and his family are sprung the present race of men, and are supposed to be only about 950,000,000 persons.

If we proceed from the number to the nature of reasonable beings, we shall find much of the wisdom and goodness of God displayed in the structure of the human body, as well as in the all-directing mind.

Let us begin with the less adorned, but more solid parts, those which support, and contain the rest. First, you have a system of bones, cast in a variety of moulds, in a variety of sizes: all strong, that they may bear up the machine, yet light, that they may not weigh us down; bored with an inward cavity to contain the moistening marrow, and perforated with fine ducts, to admit the nourishing vessels. Insensible themselves, they are covered with a membrane, exquisitely sensible, which warns them of, and secures them from the annoyance of any hurtful friction; and also preserves the muscles from being fretted in their action, by the hard and rough substance of the bone. They are largest at the extremities, that they may be joined more firmly, and not so easily dislocated. The manner of their articulation is truly admirable, and remarkably various: yet never varied without demonstrating some wise design, and answering some valuable end. Frequently when two are united, the one is nicely rounded and capped with a smooth substance; the other is scooped into an hollow of the same dimensions to receive it. And both are lubricated with an unctuous fluid, to facilitate the rotation.

The feet compose the firmest pedestal, infinitely beyond all that statuary can accomplish; capable of altering its form, and extending its size, as different circumstances require. They likewise contain a set of the nicest springs, which help to place the body in a variety of attitudes, and qualify it for a multiplicity of motions. The undermost part of the heel, and the extremity of the sole, are shod with a tough insensible substance: a kind of natural sandal which never wears out, never wants repair: and which prevents an undue compression of the vessels by the weight of the body. The legs and thighs are like stately columns, so articulated that they are commodious for walking, and yet do not obstruct the easy posture of sitting. The legs swell out towards the top with a genteel projection, and are neatly wrought off towards the bottom: a variation which lessens their bulk, while it increases their beauty.

The ribs, turned into a regular arch, are gently moveable, for the act of respiration. They form a safe lodgement for the lungs and heart, some of the most important organs of life. The back bone is designed, not only to strengthen the body, and sustain its most capacious store-rooms, but also to bring down the continuation of the brain, usually termed the spinal marrow. It both conveys and guards this silver cord, as Solomon terms it, and by commodious outlets transmits it to all parts. Had it been only strait and hollow it might have served these purposes. But then the loins must have been inflexible; to avoid which, it consists of very short bones, knit together by cartilages. This peculiarity of structure gives it the pliancy of an osier, with the firmness of an oak. By this

means it is capable of various inflections, without bruising the soft marrow, or diminishing that strength which is necessary to support all the upper stories. Such a formation in any other of the solids, must have occasioned great inconvenience. Here it is unspeakably useful, a master-piece of creating skill.

The arms are exactly proportioned to each other, to preserve the equilibrium of the structure. These being the guards that defend, and the ministers that serve the whole body, are fitted for the most diversified and extensive operations: firm with bone, yet not weighty with flesh, and capable of performing all useful motions. They bend inwards and turn outwards; they move upwards or downwards. They wheel about in whatever direction we please. To these are added the hands, terminated by the fingers, not of the same length, nor of equal bigness, but in both respects different, which gives the more beauty, and far greater usefulness. Were they all flesh, they would be weak: were they one entire bone, they would be utterly inflexible: but consisting of various little bones and muscles, what shape can they not assume? Being placed at the end of the arm, the sphere of their action is exceedingly enlarged. Their extremities are an assemblage of fine tendinous fibres, acutely sensible: which notwithstanding are destined to almost incessant employ, and frequently among rugged objects. For this reason they are overlaid with nails, which preserve them from any painful impressions.

In the hand we have a case of the finest instruments. To those we owe those beautiful statues, this melodious trumpet. By the strength of the hand the tallest firs fall, and the largest oaks descend from the mountains. Fashioned by the hand they are a floating warehouse, and carry the productions of art and nature from one end of the world to the other.

The hand is the original and universal sceptre, which not only represents, but asserts our dominion over all the elements and over every creature. Though we have not the strength of the horse, the swiftness of the greyhound, or the quick scent of the spaniel, yet directed by the understanding, and enabled by the hand, we can as it were make them all our own. These short hands have found a way to penetrate the bowels of the earth, to touch the bottom of the sea. The feeble hands can manage the wings of the wind, arm themselves with the violence of fire, and press into their service the forcible impetuosity of the water. How greatly then are we indebted to our wise Creator, for this distinguishing, this invaluable member! Above all is the head, for the residence of the brain, ample to receive, and firm to defend it. It has a communication with all, even the remotest parts; has outlets for dispatching couriers to all quarters, and avenues for receiving speedy intelligence, on all needful occasions. It has lodgements wherein to post centinels, for various offices: to expedite whose operations the whole turns on a curious pivot, nicely contrived to afford the largest and freest circumlocutions.

This is screened from heat, defended from cold, and at the same time beautified by the hair: a decoration so delicate, as no art can supply, so perfectly light, as no way to encumber the wearer.

While other animals are prone in their aspect, the attitude of man is erect, which is by far the most graceful, and bespeaks superiority. It is by far the most commodious, for prosecution of all our extensive designs. It is likewise safest, less exposed to dangers, and better contrived to repel or avoid them. Does it not also remind us of our noble original, and our sublime end? Our original, which was the breath of the Almighty: our end, which was the enjoyment of him in glory?

Thus much for the rafters and beams of the house. Let us now survey the lodgings within. Here are ligaments, a tough and strong arrangement of fibres, to unite the several parts, and render what would other-

wise be an unwieldy jumble, a well-compacted and self-manageable system: membranes, thin and flexible tunics, to inwrap the fleshy parts, to connect some, and form a separation between others: arteries, the rivers of our little world, that striking out as they go, into numberless small canals, visit every street, yea, every apartment in the vital city. These being wide at first, and growing narrower and narrower, check the rapidity of the blood. This thrown from the heart, dilates the arteries, and their own elastic force contracts them: by which means they vibrate against the finger, and much assist both in the discovery and cure of diseases. The larger arteries, wherever the blood is forced to bend, are situate on the bending side; lest being stretched to an improper length, the circulation should be retarded. They are not, like several of the veins, near the surface, but placed at a proper depth. And hereby they are more secure from external injuries. In those parts which are most liable to pressure, an admirable expedient takes place. The arteries inosculate with each other: breaking into a new track, they fetch a little circuit, and afterwards return into the main road. So that if any thing block up or straighten the direct passage, the current by diverting to this new channel, eludes the impediment, flows on, and soon regains its wonted course.

The veins receive the blood from the arteries, and re-convey it to the heart. The pressure of the blood is not near so forcible in these as in the arteries. Therefore their texture is considerably lighter. Such an exact economist is nature, amidst all her liberality. In many of these canals, the current, though widening continually, is obliged to push its way against the perpendicular: hereby it is exposed to the danger of falling back and overloading the vessels. To prevent this, valves are interposed at proper distances, which are no hindrance to the regular passage, but prevent the reflux, and facilitate the passage of the blood to the grand receptacle. But these valves are only where the blood is constrained to climb: where the ascent ceases, they cease also.

Here are glands to philtrate the passing fluids, each of which is an assemblage of vessels, complicated with seeming confusion, but with perfect regularity. Each forms a secretion far more curious than the most admired operations of chemistry. Muscles, composed of the finest fibres, yet endued with incredible strength, fashioned after a variety of patterns, but all in the highest taste for elegance and conveniency. These are the instruments of motion, and at the command of the will, execute their functions quick as lightning: nerves, surprisingly minute, which set the muscles at work, diffuse the power of sensation through the body, and upon any impression from without, give all needful intelligence to the soul: Vesicles, distended with an unctuous matter, in some places compose a soft cushion; as in the calf of the leg, whose large muscles, mixt with fat, are of singular service to those important bones. This flanks and fortifies them, like a strong bastion, supports and cherishes them, like a soft pillow. In other places they fill up the vacuities, and smooth the inequalities of the flesh. Inwardly they supply the machine for motion; outwardly they render it smooth and graceful.

The skin, like a curious surtout, covers the whole, formed of the most delicate net-work, whose meshes are minute, and whose threads are multiplied, even to a prodigy: the meshes are so minute, that nothing passes them, which is discernible by the eye: though they discharge every moment myriads and myriads of superfluous incumbrances. The threads are so multiplied, that neither the point of the smallest needle, nor the infinitely finer lance of a gnat, can pierce any part without drawing blood, and causing an uneasy sensation. Consequently, without wounding by so small a puncture, both a nerve and a vein!

But a course of incessant action must exhaust the solids and waste the fluids, and unless both are properly recruited, in a short time destroy the machine. For this reason it is furnished with the organs, and endowed with the powers of nutrition: teeth, the foremost thin and sharp, to bite asunder the food; the hindermost, broad and strong, indented with small cavities, the better to grind in pieces what is transmitted to them. But in children the formation of teeth is postponed till they have occasion for them.

Were the teeth, like other bones, covered with the periosteum, chewing would give much pain. Were they quite naked, they would soon decay and perish. To guard against both, they are overlaid with a neat enamel, harder than the bone itself, which gives no pain in chewing, and yet secures them from various injuries.

The lips prevent the food from slipping out of the mouth, and assisted by the tongue, return it to the grinders. While they do this in concert with the cheeks, they squeeze a thin liquor from the adjacent glands. This moistens the food and prepares it for digestion. When the mouth is inactive these are nearly closed: but when we speak or eat, their moisture being then necessary, is expressed as need requires.

But the food could not descend merely by its own weight, through a narrow and clammy passage into the stomach. Therefore to effect this, muscles both strait and circular are provided. The former enlarge the cavity, and give an easy admittance. The latter, closing behind the descending aliment, press it downward. But before the food enters the gullet, it must of necessity pass over the orifice of the windpipe: whence it is in danger of falling upon the lungs, which might occasion instant death. To obviate this, a moveable lid is placed, which when the smallest particle advances, is pulled down and shut close, but as soon as it is swallowed, is let loose and stands open. Thus the important pass is always made sure against any noxious approaches; yet always left free for the air, and open for respiration.

The food descending into the stomach, is not yet ready for the bowels. Therefore that great receiver is strong to bear, and proper to detain it, till it is wrought into the smoothest pulp imaginable. From hence it is discharged by a gentle force, and passes gradually into the intestines.

Near the entrance waits the gall-bladder, ready to pour its salutary juice upon the aliment, which dissolves any thing viscid, scours the intestines, and keeps all the fine apertures clear. This bag, as the stomach fills, is prest thereby, and then only discharges its contents. It is also furnished with a valve of a very peculiar, namely, of a spiral form: through which the detestive liquid cannot hastily pour, but must gently ooze. Admirable construction! which, without any care of ours, gives the needful supply, and no more.

The nutriment then pursues its way through the mazes of the intestines: which by a wormlike motion protrude it and force its small particles into the lacteal vessels. These are a series of the finest strainers, ranged in countless multitudes all along the sides of the winding passage. Had this been strait or short, the food could not have resigned a sufficient quantity of its nourishing particles. Therefore it is artfully convolved and greatly extended, that whatever passes may be sifted thoroughly. As the aliment proceeds, it is more and more drained of its nutritious juices. In consequence of this, it would become hard, and pain the tender parts, but that glands are posted in proper places to discharge a lubricated fluid. These are smaller or fewer near the stomach, because there the aliment is moist enough: whereas in the bowels remote from the stomach, they are either multiplied or enlarged.

The chyle drawn off by the lacteals is carried thro' millions of ducts, too fine even for the microscope to discover. To this it is owing that nothing enters the blood, but what is capable of passing through the finer vessels. It is then lodged in several commodious cells (the glands of the mesentary) and there mixt with a thin diluting lymph, which makes it more apt to flow. Hence it is conveyed to the common receptacle, and mounts through a perpendicular tube into the last subclavian vein. This tube lies contiguous to the great artery, whose strong pulsation drives on the flu-

id, and enables it to ascend and unload its treasure, at the very door of the heart.

But the chyle is as yet in too crude a state to be fit for the animal functions. Therefore it is thrown into the lungs. In the spongy cells of this amazing laboratory, it mixes with the external air, and its whole substance is made more smooth and uniform. Thus improved it enters the left ventricle of the heart, a strong active, indefatigable muscle. The large muscles of the arm or of the thigh are soon wearied: a day's labour, a day's journey, exhausts their strength. But the heart toils whole weeks, whole months, nay years, unwearied: is equally a stranger to intermission and fatigue. Impelled by this, part of the blood shoots upward to the head; part rolls through the whole body.

But how shall a stream divided into myriads of channels, be brought back to its source? Should any portion of it be unable to return, putrefaction, if not death, must ensue. Therefore the all-wise Creator has connected the extremities of the arteries with the beginning of the veins: so that the same force which darts the blood through the former, helps to drive it through the latter. Thus it is re-conducted to the great cistern, and there played off afresh.

Where two opposite currents would be in danger of clashing, where the streams from the vena cava, and vena ascendens coincide, a fibrous excrescence interposes, which like a projecting pier, breaks the stroke of each, and throws both into their proper receptacle. Where the motion is to be speedy, the channels either forbear to wind (as in the great artery, which descends to the feet) or lessen in their dimensions, as in every interval between all the ramifications. When the progress is to be retarded, the tubes are variously convolved, or their diameter contracted. Thus guarded, the living flood never discontinues its course, but night and day, whether we sleep or wake, still perseveres to run briskly through the arteries, and return softly through the veins.

(To be concluded in our next.)

SELECTED FOR THE MIRROR BY A YOUNG LADY.

THE JOURNAL OF A WILTSHIRE CURATE.

MONDAY received ten pounds from my rector, Doctor Snarl, being one half year's salary. Obligated to wait a long time before my admittance to the Doctor; and even when admitted, was never once asked to sit down to refresh myself, though I had walked eleven miles. Item—the Doctor hinted he could have the curacy filled for fifteen pounds a year.

Tuesday. Paid nine pounds to seven different people; but could not buy the second hand pair of black breeches offered me as a great bargain, by the taylor, my wife wanting a petticoat above all things, and neither Betsy nor Polly having a shoe to go to church.

Wednesday.—My wife bought a petticoat for herself, and shoes for her two daughters; but, unluckily, in coming home, dropped half a guinea through a hole, which she had never before perceived in her pocket, and reduced all our cash in the world to a half a crown. Item—chid my poor woman for being afflicted at the misfortune, and tenderly advised her to depend upon the goodness of God.

Thursday.—Received a note from the ale house at the top of the hill, informing me that a gentleman begged to speak to me on pressing business. Went, and found it was an unfortunate member of a strolling company of players, who was pledged for seven pence half penny. In a struggle what to do; the baker, though we had paid him but on Tuesday, quarrelled with us, to avoid giving any credit in future: and George

Greasy the butcher sent us word, that he heard it whispered, how the rector intended to take a curate who would do the parish duty at an inferior price; and therefore though he would do any thing to serve me, advised me to deal with Peter Paunch, at the upper end of the town; mortifying reflections these. But a want of humanity is in my opinion a want of justice; the Father of the universe lends his blessings to us, with a view that we should relieve a brother in distress; and we consequently do no more than pay a debt, when we perform an act of benevolence. Paid the stranger's reckoning out of the shilling in my pocket, and gave him the remainder of the money to prosecute his journey.

Friday.—A very scanty dinner; and pretended therefore to be ill, that by avoiding to eat, I might leave something like enough for my poor wife and children.—I told my wife what I had done with the shilling; the excellent creature, instead of blaming me for the action, blessed the goodness of my heart, and burst into tears.—Mem. Never to contradict her as long as I live; for the mind that can argue like her's, though it may deviate from the more rigid sentiments of prudence, is even amiable for its indiscretion, and in every lapse from the severity of economy, performs an act of virtue superiour to the value of a kingdom.

Saturday.—Wrote a sermon, which on Sunday I preached at four different parish churches, and came home excessively wearied, and excessively hungry; no more money than two pence half-penny in the house; but see the goodness of God! the strolling player whom I had relieved was a man of fortune, who accidentally heard that I was as humane as I was indigent, and from a generous eccentricity of temper, wanted to do me an essential piece of service: I had not been an hour at home, when he came in, and declaring himself my friend, put a fifty pound note into my hand, and the next day presented me with a living of three hundred pounds sterling a year.

FALSTAFF'S ENCOMIUMS ON SACK.

A good sherris-sack hath a two-fold operation in it. It ascends me into the brain: dries me, there, all the foolish, dull, and crudy vapours that environ it; makes it apprehensive, quick, inventive, full of nimble, fiery, and delectable shapes, which delivered over to the voice, the tongue, which is the birth, becomes excellent wit. The second property of your excellent sherris, is, the warming of the blood; which before, cold and settled, left the liver white and pale, which is the badge of pusillanimity and cowardice. But the sherris warms it, and makes its course from the inwards to the parts extreme. It illuminateth the face, which, as a beacon, gives warning to all the rest of this little kingdom, man, to arm; and, then, the vital commoners, and inland petty spirits, muster me all to their captain, the heart; who, great, and puffed up with this retinue, doth any deed of courage, and this valour comes of sherris. So that skill in the weapon is nothing without sack, for that it sets it at work; and learning a mere hoard of gold kept by a devil, till sack commences it, and sets it in act and use. Hereof comes it that Prince Harry is valiant; for the cold blood he did naturally inherit of his father he hath, like lean, sterile, and bare land, manured, husbanded, and tilled, with drinking good, and good store of fertile sherris. If I had a thousand sons, the first human principle I would teach them, should be—To forswear thin potations, and to addict themselves to sack. SHAKESPEARE.

Original Poetry.

FOR THE LITERARY MIRROR.

THE ORPHAN GIRL.

BY A YOUNG LADY.

GOD save the poor Orphan ! I said in my heart;
Who leaves in the vale, her dear Cottage behind her,
To whom, would her Landlord no pity impart,
But of her past joys with her parents, remind her !

God save the poor Orphan ! for else do I fear,
Her innocence soon, in despair will forsake her,
And the sigh of remorse, with the fast flowing tear,
Will far hence, in the storms of misfortune o'ertake her !

God save the poor Orphan ! and teach her to bear
The frown of adversity piercingly chilling,
Unfeeling Prosperity's arrogant sneer,
That through the sad heart, is so painfully thrilling !

God save the poor Orphan ! or take her away
From this world of sickness, of guilt, and of sorrow,
From reflections, compassion could only allay,
That deceive, with the hope of more comfort tomorrow.

BY THE SAME.

TO THE CHARITABLE.

Ah, see the poor trav'ler o'er regions of snow,
So hungry, and cheerless ! no cottage is nigh !
The last fading beam of the sun sinking low,
He behind the cold mountain observes with a sigh !

But St. Gothard* at length arises to view,
And friendly receive him, though he's nothing to pay ;
He's met with a smile, 'tis the travellers due,
And that smile of kindness his sorrows allay.

The Monks gather round him, to hear his sad tale,
They pity his sufferings, rejoice at his joy,
Nor ask, from *what nation* he came to the vale,
For prejudice here, cannot pity destroy !

But now see the brethren for charity roam,
Let them find that benevolence, *they would bestow* ;
Rebuild them, Oh Strangers, their once happy home,
For the Monks of St. Gothard now claim it from you !

In Switzerland then, shall your praises resound,
And the Monks of St. Gothard shall offer a pray'r
That the flames may not ever your dwelling surround,
Compell'd to solicit, what others can spare !

* At the foot of the Alps.

[SELECTED.]

To a Lady who drew her steel pins from her bonnet
in a thunder storm.

Cease Eliza, thy locks to despoil,
Nor remove the bright steel from thy hair ;
Per fruitless and fond is thy toil,
Since Nature has made thee so fair.
While the rose on thy cheek shall remain,
And thy eye so bewitchingly shine,
Thy endeavours must still be in vain,
For attraction will always be thine.

MR. SEWALL,

The following, though calculated for the meridian of London, will answer with very little variation for every seaport in Newengland. By giving some an opportunity of seeing themselves in your MIRROR, you will oblige ME.

TO ALL HONEST BUCKS AND BLOODS.

DEAR BROTHERS,

THE annexed "rules for behaviour when perambulating the streets, &c." being communicated to me by a very worthy fellow, who is one of us, I take the liberty of transmitting them to my friends the Editors of the Sporting Magazine, for your use and amusement.

Your's sincerely,

TIPPY.

When you descend into the streets, bounce along without fear, as if there was nobody in them but yourself ; and with as much consequence as if the houses in them were all your own. Be in a frenzy of a hurry when you turn the corner, for then you have a chance of dashing yourself against a chimney-sweeper or hair-dresser ; or else you may have the opportunity of throwing some well-dressed woman, or elderly man into the kennel, and then shew your politeness by making an excuse.

If three or four of you walk together, let it be arm in arm ; by which means you will oblige every body else to go off the pavement ; and if they are dirtied by the splashing of carts and coaches, it will be an excellent reason for your shewing your teeth, and clearing your lungs by a loud horse laugh.

When you meet a few acquaintances as clever as yourselves, form immediately a circle. Swear most outrageously. Criticize all that pass, especially modest women. If a particular fine one, assure your companions she is as common as a barber's chair ; this will stamp you a man of gallantry.

At the same time be certain to use your glass very freely on every one that passes, by staring them as impudently in the face as possible. This method, besides the benefit of displaying your good breeding and politeness, will give you an opportunity of beholding, what perhaps you seldom see in your circle of female acquaintance, the blushes of a modest woman.

Dip your cane in the puddle, and stick it under your arm ; by which you may either endanger the eyes of those that are behind you, or at least dirty their cloaths.

By observing these rules, you will be admired by some, and have the satisfaction of feeling very large within yourselves.

[SELECTIONS.]

Advice from a Father to a Son.

—I don't mind your taking a few glasses of wine in company ; it cheers and enlivens, promotes mirth, spirit, and conversation ; nay—if you can bear it, at those times, Tom, I don't much mind a whole bottle. But as you value yourself ; and as you value my friendship, beware "of t'other bottle." In all my experience in life, the mischief has been done by "t'other bottle." It is "t'other bottle," makes us drunk, quarrelsome, stupid, stay out late, keep bad hours, bad company, and bad every thing. Therefore, I say again, Tom, beware of "t'other bottle."

THE SEAT OF THE SOUL.

IN the design of Martin to investigate the diseases of the mind, he thought nothing so necessary as an inquiry after the seat of the soul : in which at first, he laboured under great uncertainties. Sometimes he was of opinion that it lodged in the brain, sometimes in the stomach, and sometimes in the heart. Afterwards he tho't it absurd to confine that sovereign lady to one apartment ; which made him infer, that she shifted it according to the several functions of life : The brain was her study, the heart her state-room, and the stomach her kitchen. But, as he saw several offices of life went on at the same time, he was forced to give up this hypothesis also. He now conjectured it was more for the dignity of the soul to perform several operations by her little ministers, the animal spirits ; from whence it was natural to conclude, that she resides in different parts, according to different inclinations, sexes, ages, and professions. Thus, in epicures he seated her in the mouth of the stomach ; philosophers have her in the brain, soldiers in their heart, women in their tongues, fiddlers in their fingers, and rope-dancers in their toes. At length he grew fond of the glandula pinealis, dissecting many subjects to find out the different figure of this gland, from whence he might discover the cause of the different tempers in mankind. He supported that in factious and restless-spirited people, he should find it sharp and pointed, allowing no room for the soul to repose herself ; that in quiet tempers it was flat, smooth, and soft, affording to the soul, as it were, an easy cushion. He was confirmed in this by observing, that calves and philosophers, tygers, and statesmen, foxes and sharpers, peacocks and fops, cock-sparrows and coquettes, monkeys and players, courtiers and spaniels, moles and misers, exactly resemble one another in the conformation of the pineal gland. He did not doubt likewise to find the same resemblance in highway-men and conquerors : In order to satisfy himself in which, it was, that he purchased the body of one of the species at Tyburn, hoping in time to have the happiness of one of the latter too under his anatomical knife.

CORPORAL TRIM'S

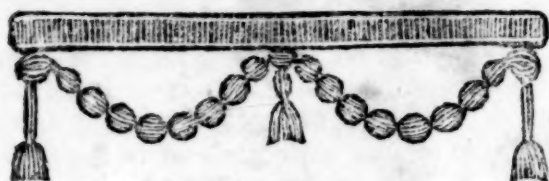
Explanation of the Fifth Commandment.

—Pr'thee, Trim, quoth my father : What dost thou mean, by "honouring thy father and mother ?"

Allowing them, a'nt please your honour, three halfpence a day out of my pay, when they grow old. And didst thou do that, Trim ? said Yorick. He did indeed, replied my uncle Toby. Then, Trim, said Yorick, springing out of his chair, and taking the Corporal by the hand, thou art the best commentator upon that part of the Decalogue ; and I honour thee more for it, Corporal Trim, than if thou hadst had a hand in the Talmud itself. Sterne.

HEALTH.

O blessed health ! thou art above all gold and treasure ; 'tis thou who enlargest the soul—and openest all its powers to receive instruction, and to relish virtue. He that has thee, has little more to wish for ! and he that is so wretched as to want thee ; wants every thing. Ibid.



Original Poetry.

Spring.

WHEN AUTUMN gloom'd o'er mountain, dale, and grove,
And PHOEBUS bid farewell the sad'ning year !
NATURE, "like one forsaken of her LOVE,"
Bath'd her fast fading cheek with many a tear !

Soon WINTER came, with desolating pow'r,
Ice-bound the streams, chill'd with his breath the air,
Frown'd her enchanting songsters from the bow'r,
Tore off her robes, and sunk her in despair !

But SOL returns, rejoicing in his way,
The LOVES and GRACES blooming in his train,
And drives the rude, rough RAVAGER away,
Subdues his pow'r, and triumphs o'er his reign.

He glad'ning comes ; and bids the streamlets flow ;
Charms back the little WARBLERS of the grove ;
Gives the soft breeze of balmy sweets to blow,
And wakens NATURE into joy and love.

And Lover-like, with soul-enliv'ning pow'rs,
Arrays the smiling SPRING in robes of grace,
Decks her fair bosom with a heav'n of flow'rs,
And throws the blush of beauty o'er her face.

The Humming-Bird.

In our last number we gave an account of the extraordinary Humming-Bird. The following is an attempt at the description of its variegated plumage in verse.

IN peerless beauty, grace, and glory drest,
Lo, Nature's master-piece thou shin'st confest !
Thy high wrought, radiant plumes, divinely glow
In all the colours of th' ethereal bow :
Thy beauteous neck, a blushing red displays,
That seems a ruby sparkling in Sol's rays ;
The down beneath thy breast and wings unfold
The dazzling tint of Ophir's burnish'd gold ;
Thy green-rob'd thighs, the verdure gem'd with dew
Out-vie, or the bright em'rald's glowing hue ;
While a rich lustre 'bove expression, shed
The gold and green that diadem thy head ;
But in thy tuft, these colours all combine,
And in one brilliant blaze of beauty shine.

A sublime Acrostic on a most sublime Subject.

GO, martial Puss, into the cellar go,
Raise high thy back, and war's loud clarion blow !
In all thy terror guard thy MISTRESS' house,
Make captives of each odious rat and mouse,
And if thy might they madly dare oppose,
Like thund'ring Jupiter deal round thy blows ;
Keep up the fight till all thy foes are slain ;
Immortal wreaths thy glorious brows shall gain,
Nor boasting conq'ers shall presume with thee to reign.

Humour.

Refinement of Manners. A person having some business with a *master sweep*, was told by the maid that her master could not be seen, as he was in company with *another gentleman*.

Two gentlemen, remarkable for a nice appetite, were disputing lately at a coffee-house upon the best mode of cooking a beef-steak, and were enumerating the different processes for bringing it to table in the highest perfection. Mr. Wewitzer, of Drury-lane theatre, who was present, observed, that "of all the methods of cooking a beef-steak, he thought Shakespeare's recipe to be the shortest and the best." Upon being asked for an explanation—"Why, Gentlemen," said Wewitzer,

"If when 'twere done, 'twere well done,
Then 'twere well it were done quickly."

A certain Hibernian lady has a custom of saying to a favourite little dog, to make him follow her, "Come along, sir. A *would-be-witty* gentleman stepped up to her one day, and accosted her with—"Is it me, Madam, you called?" "Oh, no Sir," said she, with great composure, "It was *another puppy* I spoke to."

Foreigners imagine that the distribution of the inhabitants of London, are so arranged, that *Poets* only reside in *Air-street* ; *Gluttons* in *Swallow-street* ; *Money-lenders* in *Golden-square* ; and *Creditors* in *Bond-street*.

Legal Pun.—A Lawyer on the last Western Circuit, who made a very long and saucy speech, was upbraided by another as being very *Garrow-less*.

The late Lord Avenmore, although a man of distinguished talents, was too apt to anticipate the tendency of an argument. A celebrated Lawyer, whose client had suffered in consequence of this habit, took the following method of reproving it : having engaged to dine in company with the Noble Lord, he delayed going so long, that the company were at dinner when he entered the room : he apologized for his absence, apparently with much agitation, stating that, from a melancholy event he had just witnessed, he found himself unable to master his feelings : "I was passing through the market," said he, "a calf was bound to a post ; the butcher had drawn his knife, and was just advancing, when a beautiful child ran across him ; and O ! my heavens ! he killed"—"the child !" exclaimed his Lordship. "No, my Lord, the *calf* ; but your Lordship is in the habit of *anticipating*."

"When I have a *cold in my head*," said a gentleman in company, "I am always remarkably *dull and stupid*." "You are much to be pitied then, sir," replied a young lady, "for I don't remember ever to have seen you without a *cold in your head*."

Three boys, named Tom, Dick, and Harry, lived together in the same house in London. The last-named being to pass some time in the country—When Harry goes off said Tom, we shall get rid of a foot. Indeed we shall, said Dick, a very great fool. To which Harry replied, I shall be a greater gainer than you, for you will get rid of but *one foot*, while I shall get rid of *two*.

Obituary Notices.

DIED—At Greenland, of a consumption, on the 10th ult. in the 17th year of her age, Miss ELIZA BRACKETT. She was distinguished by the innocence and purity of a heart fraught with the tenderest feelings for those in affliction, and evincing the greatest satisfaction in relieving their distresses. Integrity, connected with the sweetest disposition, secured her a multitude of friends. Her worth, and the corresponding excellencies of her mind created no envy, for native simplicity rendered her unaffected, and modesty, void of ostentation. Among her companions she was a cheerful associate ; her actions were the picture of her heart. But, alas ! the same tyrannical disorder which severed the thread of her life, had but recently bereaved her of several beloved sisters ; leaving their afflicted parents, no other consolation than the recollection of their virtues.

On Saturday last, was drowned in this harbour, Mr. BENJAMIN SWETT, merchant, of this town, aged 49.—This accident took place by the upsetting of a sail boat ; in the act of jibing, the boat striking a rapid current in the moment of the sail's filling, which carried her instantly over, when she sunk, and Mr. Swett sunk with her.—Mr. Daniel Ladd of this town, and Col. Porter of Gilman-ton were in the boat with him, and were taken up by persons going from the shore to their assistance.

The distressing event of the death of Mr. Swett, is sincerely lamented by all who knew him. He was an enterprising, valuable citizen ; and has left an affectionate wife and several children to lament one of the kindest of husbands and most tender of parents. GAZETTE.

DIED, in this town, Capt. JOSEPH CLARK.

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A good handsome CHAISE,

Suitable for family use. Apply to
HENRY CATE, near the Bath House.

Groceries.

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To his new Store, west end of the Court-House, Portsmouth Parade, south side of Congress street,

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Teas, Wines and Spirits of all kinds, warranted to be of the first quality ; fresh box and cask Raisins, Almonds, Oranges, Lemons, Spices ; Loaf, India, Havannah and brown Sugars ; Rose and Cinnamon Cordials per measure, West India ditto, various kinds per bottle ; draught and bottled Porter, various kinds, of a superior quality ; real Spanish, Baltimore and Boston Cigars ; mould and dipt Candles ; Spermacetti Oil ; Sweet Oil in flasks, together with many other articles too numerous for an advertisement, all of which are warranted as good and as cheap as can be had in town.

Attendance from sunrise until nine o'clock in the evening. Favours thankfully acknowledged. April 2.

TERMS OF THE MIRROR.

Two dollars per annum, exclusive of postage.
To subscribers at a distance one half in advance will be expected.

One column will be devoted to advertisements.
All communications addressed to the Editor of the Mirror are requested to be post paid or they will not meet with attention.

